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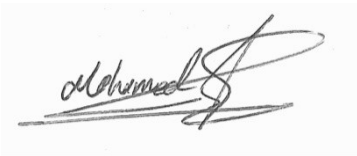
SIGNATURE: 

Key theoretical frameworks presented by Michael Oliver in *Understanding Disability: From Theory to Practice* and how they contribute to our understanding of disability in society?

In this assignment, I will explore Michael Oliver's seminal work, *"Understanding Disability: "From Theory to Practice" in Practice."* Oliver has put tailored concepts of disability and it's social implications on his articles. The frameworks developed theoretically are of crucial importance in breaking through the barriers of people with disabilities, in particular their causes, impact and coping strategies. viewing Oliver's main ideas—for instance, the concept of the social model, the opposition of the medical model, the terms related to identity, and intersectionality to the studying of disability in society—illuminate their global importance in boosting our understanding.

Social Model of Disability:

The social model of disability orchestrated by Michael Oliver, on the other hand, has a central tenet which is to rejuvenate the way we examine disability by shifting from individual defects to societal barriers (Oliver, 1990). The social model of disability has altered the perception of disability. According to this model, disability is not predominantly a characteristic of individuals but an outcome of the society and its structures which have erected tremendous hindrance to the participation and integration of people with disabilities (Shakespeare, 2010). Oliver lays out that there is the type of impairment of the person itself that is not one that disables them, but rather the attitude, the physical settings and the social norms that exclude them from fully participating in society (Oliver, 1990).

Such a shift in perspective has implication for policy-making, activism and inclusivity for society, which is high in its intensity. Attention of policymakers should be drawn to

systemic inequality and the removal of barriers with the acknowledgement of disability as a societal construct which avoids placing emphasis on individual treatments (Barnes, 2012). The advocates for societal change on the basis of the social paradigm said policies should be modified, infrastructure be put in place, and these should be done on the basis to have an inclusive society which does not show discrimination. Social model appeared as a dissenting idea to established medical model. Notions of social model had been one of many political leaders that influenced the establishment of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990 together with the Independent Living Movement (Shakespeare, 2010). Among the social model influences in the development of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the USA, we can note the greatest changes in the attitudes of the society towards people with disability and the change of public opinion. The Americans with Disabilities Act, anchored on the notions of social model, protects individuals with disabilities against discrimination in public facilities, employment, transportation, and telecommunications (Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990).

Medical Model Critique:

The medical model of disability, the biased view of 20th century, has the person with disabilities as the problem rather than the person himself and has focused on impairments and medical treatments as remedy (Barnes, 1991). By and large, in this social model, disabled people are perceived as those that just need to be fixed or cured in order to blend and be standard members of society (Oliver, 1990).

Oliver criticizes the medical model for what he considers its too narrow concentration on singular impairments, while, conversely, it must be noted, societal barriers get neglected for that reason (Oliver, 1990). Psychatrizes' him contend that by medicalizing disability, the medical model is insidiously stigmatizing, marginalizing and disabling (Oliver, 1990).

The lines get blurred when the dichotomy between being healthy and healthy is questioned and this is at the root of un-stigmatizing disability and empowerment. Instead of dealing with individual cases, the society upheavals that disable them are confronted, and this empowers them to actively demand their equal representation and opportunity. Therefore, society moves from the viewpoint where 'disabled' people are associated with charity to one where they are valued as members of the society (Shakespeare, 2010).

What is the alternative way of undermining the biomedical model is the emergence of the disability rights movement in the United States of America. This movement aimed at ensuring that disabled individuals have equal rights and what have been termed as the gainful employment (Longmore & Goldberger, 2010). They carried out the activism and legislative activities in which they lobbied for accessibility, nondiscrimination laws and the change of the societal attitudes towards disability (Longmore & Goldberger, 2000).

Identity and Self-Representation:

The exploration in which Oliver deals with disability as a self-determination and changed the characterization of the society shows that disability is self-identification and social stigma against disability (Oliver, 1996). Individuals with disabilities are empowered to confront impacts and make their opinions heard through self-representation and advocacy (Charlton, 2000).. Presenting disabilities as identity strengthens people's feeling of dignity, communalness, and political alertness (Morris, 1993). They are able to come together and fight for their rights. Also, they are able to challenge discrimination by supporting one another collectively (Morris, 1993). The disability rights movement had been famous for its revolutionary attempts to bring forth positive political consciousness and promote self-representation to the people with disabilities (Longmore & Goldberger, 2000). Activists have

campaigned for legislative amendments and social orientations changes (Longmore & Goldberger, 2000).

Intersectionality and Multiple Marginalizations:

Intersectionality, coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw, acknowledges overlapping forms of discrimination that arise from the combined identities of people, such as race, gender, social class, and disability (Crenshaw, 1989). Intersectionality is as complex as the experiences of disabled people and this is something Oliver recognizes as affiliated with his concept (Oliver, 1996). Oliver's perspective in the study embodies the idea that people identify as disabled due to members of their community, among other factors affecting their social status more or less. It thus underlines the need for refusal not only for individuals to be discriminated against but to be spared from all the categories of discrimination that disabled people have to face. Analyzeifications like race, gender, and class together with disability as a critical aspect in fighting inequality will be very important (Annamma et al., 2013). Similarly, members from other minority races can endure, an added-dimension obstacles and discrimination in different life aspects (Annamma et al., 2013).

In conclusion, I presented the main theoretical frameworks proposed by Michael Oliver in *"Understanding Disability: From Theory to Practice."* By challenging the conventional understanding of disability these views also overtly persuade for social changing. Oliver's theories target social barriers to promote equality and inclusivity. In order to advance disability rights and promote an inclusive society,, there is need for further investigation and putting the theories into action.

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